ADDRESSING THE HIV WORKFORCE CHALLENGES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM

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HARRISON DISTINGUISHED ASSOCIATE TEACHING
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
ON BEHALF OF OUR TEAM

HIV Care Challenges Rural VA

- Stigma
- Transportation
- Poverty
- Isolation
- Alcohol/drug use
- Mental health challenges



Accompagnement

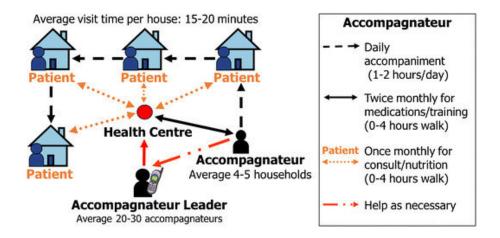
Curr HIV/AIDS Rep DOI 10.1007/s11904-016-0335-7

THE GLOBAL EPIDEMIC (SH VERMUND, SECTION EDITOR)

Community-Based ART Programs: Sustaining Adherence and Follow-up

Joia S. Mukherjee ^{1,2,3} • Danika Barry ^{2,3} • Robert D. Weatherford ^{2,3} • Ishaan K. Desai ^{1,2} • Paul E. Farmer ^{1,2,3}





Books & Arts | Published: 29 June 2017

Medicine: Heroes of global health

Amy Maxmen

Nature **546**, 598(2017) | Cite this article **332** Accesses | **110** Altmetric | Metrics

Amy Maxmen assesses a documentary on medical pioneer Paul Farmer and colleagues round the world.



UVA Ryan White Community Health Worker Program

- Community Health
 Worker Program (2013)
 - CDC funded Care and Prevention in the United States project (CAPUS)
- Community Health Worker Certification (2018)

CHW Training Topics	
Equity: Perspective Transformation	Health Education and Prevention
Disease Self-Management and Chronic Core Disease Review	Resource Identification and Organization
CHW Scope of Practice: History, Roles, Professionalism, Team Integration.	Teaching and Capacity Building Skills and Clinical Practice
Public Health Knowledge Base	Communication and Counseling Skills
CHW Legal and Ethical Issues	Outreach and Advocacy
Data Collection and Medical Record Review	



Search ...

HOME ABOUTUS HOW DOT HEALTH TOPICS A-Z HEALTH DEPARTMENTS DATA NEWSROOM PLAN FOR WELL-BEING

A State of Emergency Has Been Declared for Virginia in Response to COVID-19

a Department of Health > VDHLiveWell > Certified Community Health Worker (CCHW)

imail this page

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CCHW)

Certified Community Health Worker Credential Now Available



UVA Ryan White Community Health Worker Program (2)



- Referral Process
- Intake
- Strengths-Based Case Management

Stigma

"(I received) negative feedback from some of the agencies ... being denied the opportunity to test at a housing project development that was predominantly Black residents and being told those services were not necessary. Also when providing free testing at a health fair being told, "We do not have Gay people here."

- CHW



Stigma

"I grew up in a rural (county) and prior to this position and learning about HIV, I contributed to the stigma Two years ago when I started and met some of my first client's with HIV, all I could think was, "They have HIV!!" Now I am not concerned ... and have to remind myself sometimes of their status, as its easy to get so engrossed in their other needs."

-CHW



Adherence



Transportation





Housing







Substance Abuse Services



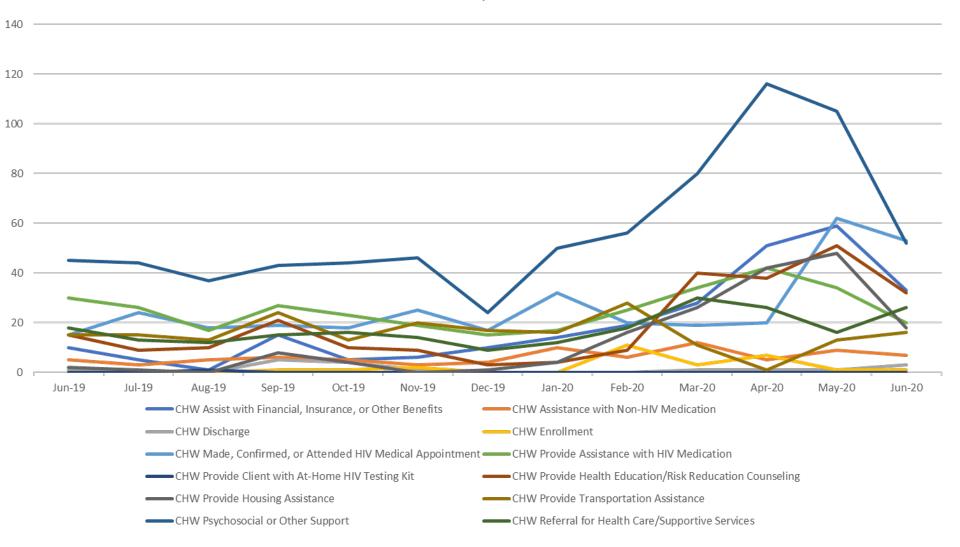
A Year of Services and... COVID-19





A Year of Services and... COVID-19 (2)

CHW Services by Service Name









Priorities and Opportunities for the Rural Health Workforce

National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care & Treatment

August 14, 2020

CAPT Sheila Pradia-Williams
Senior Advisor
Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Agenda

- **BHW Overview**
- **BHW** in Rural Communities
- Telehealth Training
- **BHW Resources**



BHW Overview





The U.S. Health Workforce



Demand for health care occupations is growing.

- Health care jobs to increase by 14% from 2018 to 2028
- Growth rate is much faster than the average for all occupations



Shortages of health professionals currently exist.

- Over 20,400 current shortage designations
- Majority in rural communities



The United States is projected to be short more than:

- 23,600 primary care physicians by 2025 and
- 15,600 dentists by 2025.



The challenges:

- Aging population and health care workforce
- · Not enough clinicians to meet demand
- Maldistribution of many providers, including nurses





Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

MISSION: Improve the health of underserved and vulnerable populations by

- strengthening the health workforce and
- connecting skilled professionals to communities in need.





BHW Priorities

Access

Make it easier for people to get health care.

Supply

Add health care workers to the workforce.

Help health care providers work where they are needed.

Train the health workforce to use evidence-based techniques proven to help patients.





BHW in Rural Communities





BHW's Footprint in Rural Communities



Rural Background

Students and trainees from rural backgrounds



Training Sites

BHW-sponsored programs in rural training sites



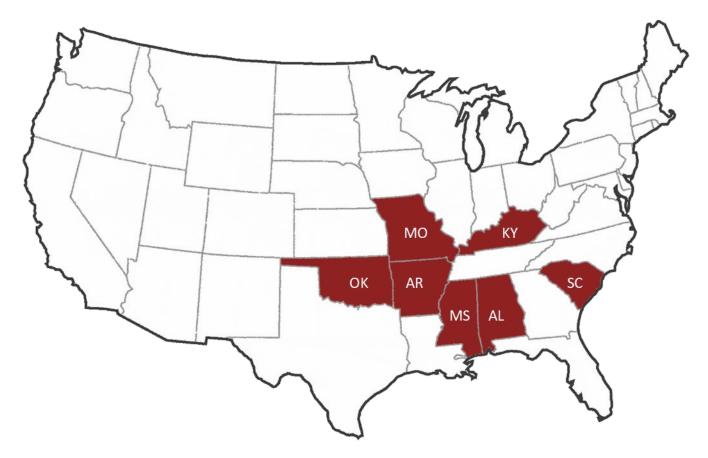
Rural Residencies

In family medicine, internal medicine, and psychiatry





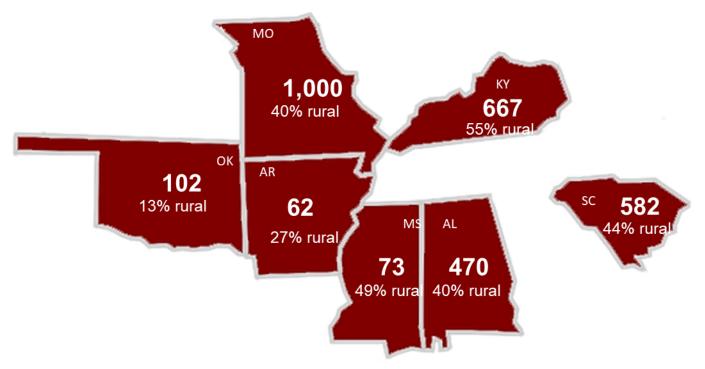
HIV in Rural Areas: Seven States





BHW's Presence: Health Professions Training Program Sites Nationwide: 20,726 sites

28% rural location



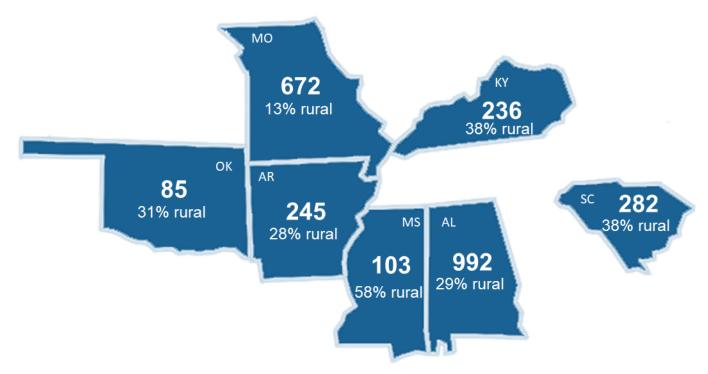
FY 2019 data





BHW's Presence: Health Professions Training Nationwide: 29,769 clinical trainees Program Participants

Nationwide: 29,769 clinical trainees 19% rural background



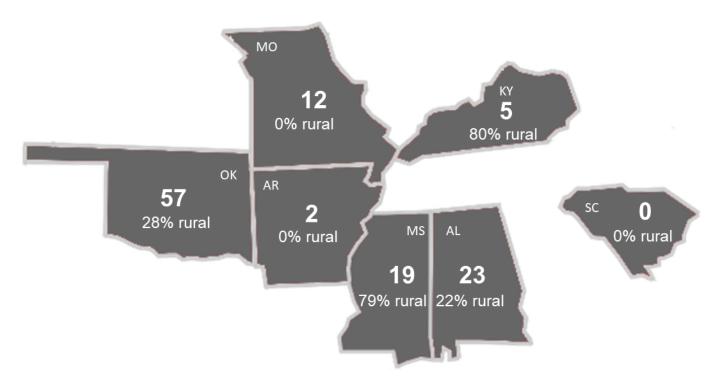




BHW's Presence: Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education

Nationwide: 858 trainees

26% rural background





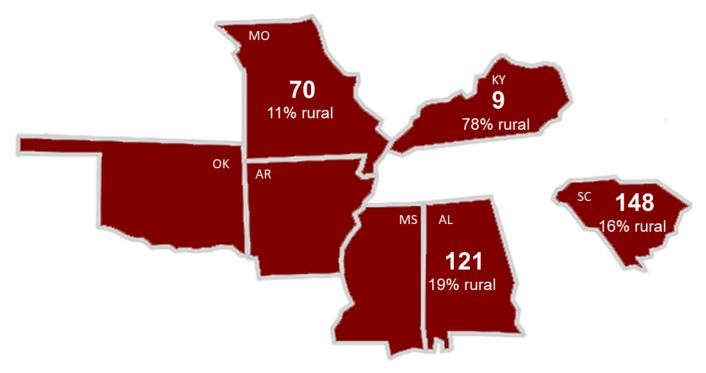




BHW's Presence: Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships

Nationwide: 2,647 trainees

18% rural backgrounds





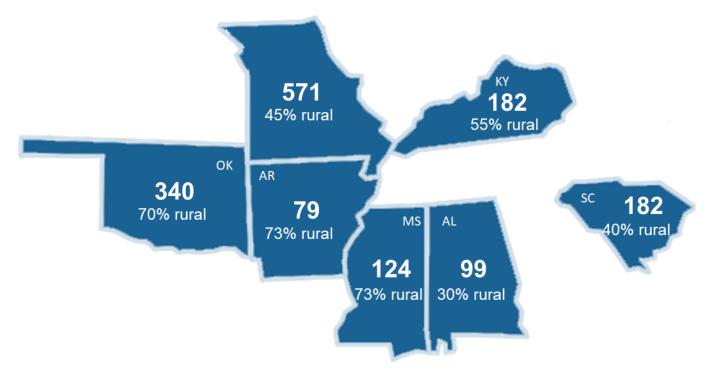




BHW's Presence: National Health Service Corps

Nationwide: 13,053 participants

34% in rural setting



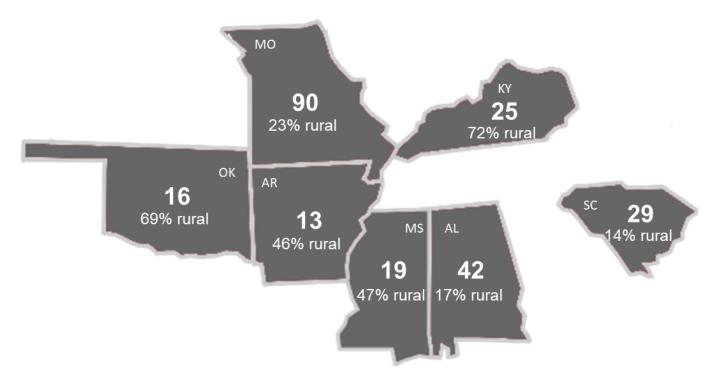






BHW's Presence: Nurse Corps

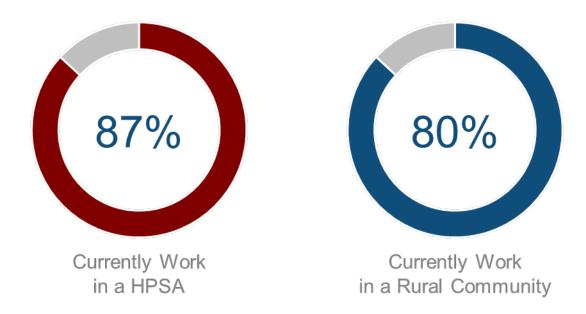
Nationwide: 1,928 participants 22% in rural setting







BHW Clinician Retention (2012-2018)



Based on 6,547 clinicians who completed their NHSC or Nurse Corps service in a rural community.



Telehealth Training





Transitioning to Telehealth Training







BHW Resources





Linking Providers to Communities

Health Workforce Connector

Where health care professionals connect with sites

- Over 26,000 sites
- Nearly 5,000 opportunities
- Customized profiles
- Powerful filters

Virtual Job Fairs

Bringing together recruiters and job seekers

- Live!
- Free
- Online
- Fully interactive

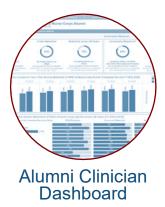
For NHSC and Nurse Corps healthcare facilities

https://connector.hrsa.gov/connector/





Health Workforce Data



data.HRSA.gov



Health Professions Training Programs



Area Health Resources Files



Unified Clinician Dashboards



Shortage Areas





The Future Health Workforce

BHW will continue to strengthen the health workforce and support clinicians working in rural and underserved areas by strategically investing in our workforce development programs.

Education

Building a diverse and well-trained workforce committed to improving the health of the underserved

Training

Incorporating education and training as an essential component of quality improvement and workforce retention

Service

Connecting a quality health workforce to our underserved and rural communities







Questions





Contact Us

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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

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Expanded role of the community-based pharmacist in the community

Nasima M. Camp, MPH presenting for Kathy Byrd MD, MPH and the Patient-centered HIV Care Model Team



Background

- Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has led to decreased HIV-associated morbidity and mortality
- Providers face challenges providing HIV care
 - Long-term management, ART side effects, drug interactions
- The demand for HIV care providers is greater than ever
- HIV workforce may be declining rather than growing
- The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) recommends increasing the number and diversity of available providers and expanding models of team-based care

Expanding the HIV care workforce

- Increase provision of HIV care by general practitioners, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners
- Co-management of HIV care with HIV specialists for clinicians with low HIV patient volume
- Increase collaborations with existing practitioners (e.g., between clinicians and community-based pharmacists)

Why community pharmacists?

- In a unique position to provide HIV treatment and prevention services
- Are among the most accessible of healthcare settings
- Can offer a wide range of services including PrEP, HIV screening, syringe sales, and adherence counseling
- Pharmacist-led services, such as Medication Therapy
 Management (MTM) have been shown to improve patient outcomes

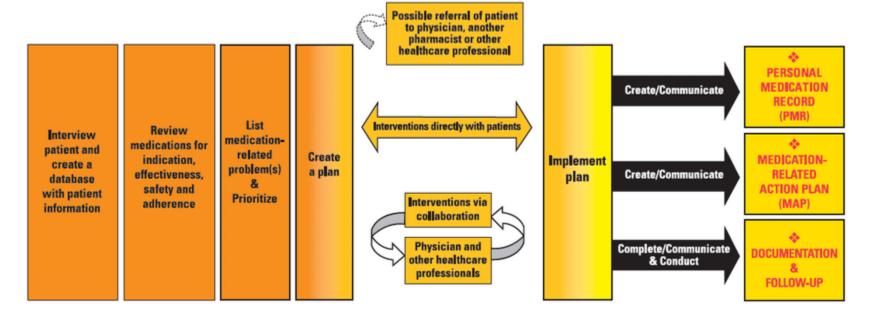
What is Medication Therapy Management (MTM)?

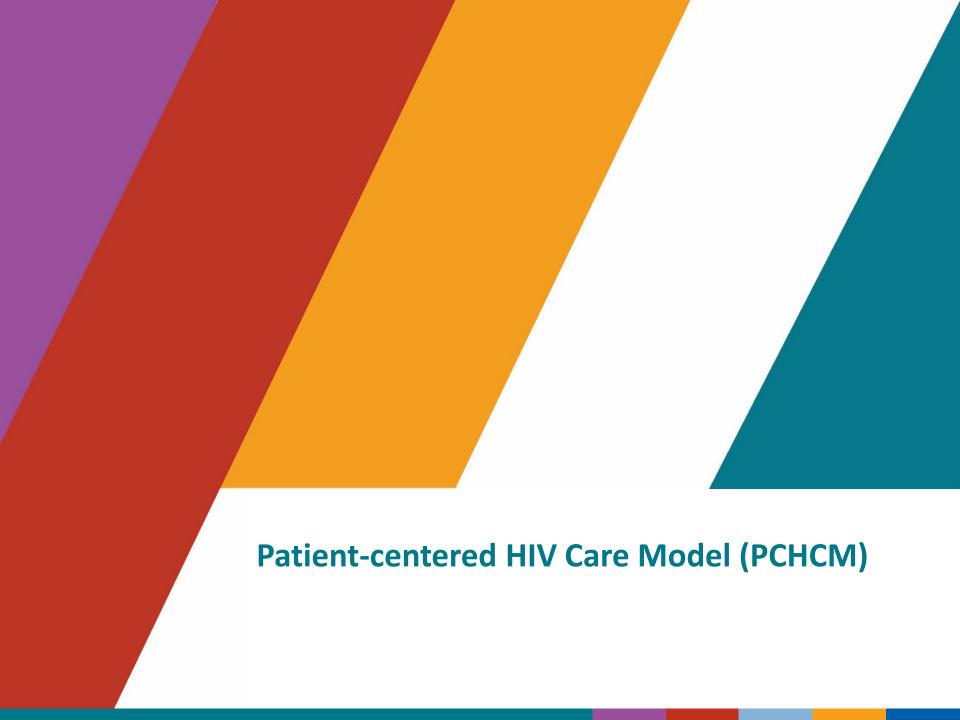
A distinct service or group of services that optimize therapeutic outcomes for individual patients. MTM services are independent of, but can occur in conjunction with, the provision of a medication product

-American Pharmacists Association

Medication Therapy Management (MTM)

❖ MEDICATION THERAPY REVIEW
❖ INTERVENTION AND/OR REFERRAL





Patient-centered HIV Care Model (PCHCM)

- Between August 2013 and September 2016, CDC, Walgreen Co., and University of North Texas Health Science Center System College of Pharmacy collaborated to develop and implement the Patient-centered HIV Care Model
 - Goal: To increase communication and collaboration between communitybased pharmacists and primary medical providers for patient-centered care.
 - Objectives: To improve retention in care, adherence to therapy, and HIV viral suppression

Project sites and staff training

- Ten project sites comprised of a medical clinic partnered with ≥1 community-based HIV-specialized retail pharmacy
- Project pharmacists previously trained in:
 - HIV treatment and prevention and HIV counseling
 - HIV Medication Therapy Management (MTM)
- Total of 765 persons enrolled
- Each participant received at least 12 months of services

Foundation of the Patient-centered HIV Care Model

- Built upon the MTM model and included enhanced services
- Required sharing of patient clinical information between clinicians and pharmacists
- Required increased communication and collaboration between clinic medical providers and pharmacists



CLINICS

SHARE INFORMATION

- ✓ Complete medication list
- ✓ Medical problem list
- ✓ Lab test results
- ✓ Social history
- ✓ Immunization history



CLINICS

PHARMACY



SHARE INFORMATION

- ✓ Complete medication list
- ✓ Medical problem list
- ✓ Lab test results
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- ✓ Immunization history



CLINICS

PHARMACY



SHARE INFORMATION

- ✓ Complete medication list
- ✓ Medical problem list
- ✓ Lab test results
- ✓ Social history
- √ Immunization history

CONDUCT MTM



CLINICS

PHARMACY



SHARE INFORMATION

- ✓ Complete medication list
- ✓ Medical problem list
- ✓ Lab test results
- ✓ Social history
- ✓ Immunization history

CONDUCT MTM

- ✓ Monitor refills
- ✓ Monitor lab results
- ✓ Adherence support
- ✓ Ancillary services



CLINICS

SHARE INFORMATION

- ✓ Complete medication list
- ✓ Medical problem list
- ✓ Lab test results
- ✓ Social history
- √ Immunization history



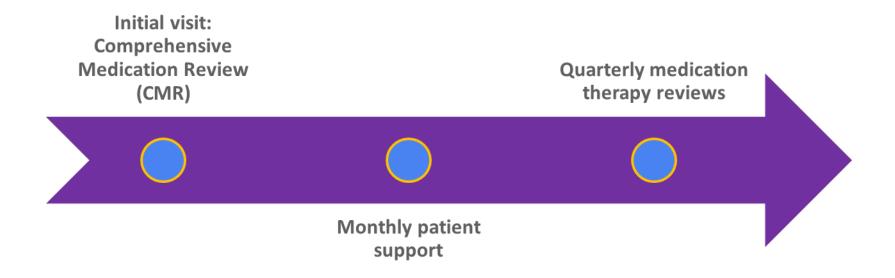
PHARMACY

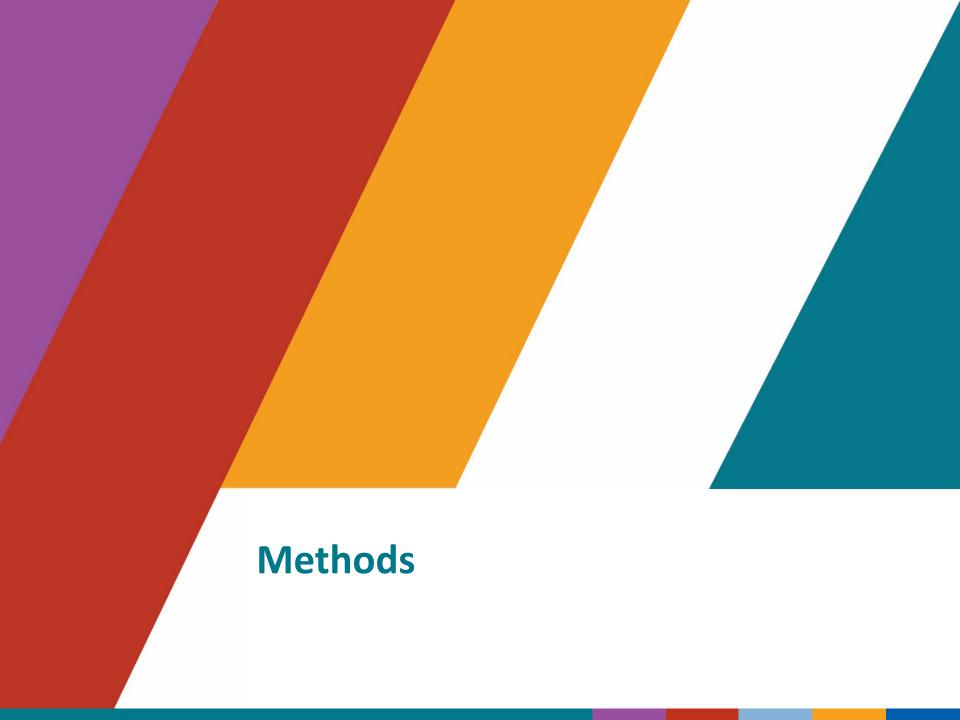


CONDUCT MTM

- ✓ Monitor refills
- ✓ Monitor lab results
- ✓ Adherence support
- ✓ Ancillary services

Typical encounter schedule





Methods

- The proportion of persons retained in care and virally suppressed was calculated, pre- and post-model implementation
 - Retention in care: ≥1 medical visit in each 6-month period of a 12-month measurement period with a minimum of 60 days between medical visits
 - Viral suppression: HIV RNA < 200 copies/mL in last test in a 12-month measurement period
 - Pre-measurement period: 12 months prior to the first CMR
 - Post-measurement period: day after first CMR to 12 months forward
- The proportion of persons with viral loads ≥1,500 copies/mL was also determined, pre- to post-implementation

Methods continued

- Inclusion criteria:
 - Documentation or evidence of HIV diagnosis ≥12 months prior to the enrollment date (retention in care)
 - ≥1 viral load test result in each measurement period (viral suppression)
- The relative percentage change of the proportion of persons retained in care and virally suppressed was calculated, pre- to post-implementation
- The proportion retained in care was modeled using log binomial regression
- The proportion virally suppressed was compared using McNemar's test
- Cost and cost-effectiveness were determined using standard methods

Results – retention in care

Characteristics of enrolled participants

	Characteristic	Total enrolled (n = 765)
Median age (years)		48 (IQR: 38 – 55)
		n (%)
Race/ethnicity	Black, non-Hispanic	331 (43)
	White, non-Hispanic	185 (24)
	White, ethnicity unknown	69 (9)
	Hispanic	101 (13)
	Other/Unknown	79 (10)
Gender	Male	555 (73)
	Female	193 (25)
	Transgender	17 (2)
Medical insurance	Medicaid	257 (34)
	Medicare	155 (20)
	Multiple	55 (7)
	Ryan White/ADAP	113 (15)
	Private insurance	115 (15)
	Uninsured/Unknown	70 (9)

Proportion of persons retained in care, pre- and post-model implementation by characteristic

	Characteristic	Baseline	Follow-up		
Characteristic		(n = 680)	(n = 625)		
		N (%)	N (%)	% Change*	†p-value
Total		413 (61)	428 (69)	13	0.002
Age in years	≥50	210 (63)	221 (70)	12	0.029
Race/ethnicity	Black, non-Hispanic	178 (60)	202 (73)	23	< 0.001
Sex‡	Male	294 (60.4)	309 (68.8)	13.9	0.005
	Female	108 (60.0)	110 (67.9)	13.2	0.086
Medical					
insurance	Ryan White/ADAP§	53 (63.9)	61 (78.2)	22.4	0.023
	Private Insurance	49 (58.3)	53 (70.7)	21.3	0.069

^{*}relative percentage change, †The p-values are the tests of significance comparing the relative retention rate (pre-versus post-implementation) within each level of each factor ‡Transgender persons were excluded from analysis due to small numbers, § ADAP = AIDS Drug Assistance Program

Byrd KK, et al. Retention in HIV care among participants in the Patient-centered HIV Care Model—a collaboration between community-based pharmacists and primary medical providers. AIDS Patient Care STDS. 2019; 33(2):58-66.

Results – viral suppression

Proportion of persons virally suppressed, pre- and post-model implementation by characteristic

	Characteristic	Baseline	Follow-up		
		N (%)	N (%)	% Change*	p-value
Total		486 (75)	558 (86)	15	<0.001
Age in Years	18-24	12 (48)	22 (88)	83	0.002
	25-34	58 (60)	73 (75)	26	0.009
	35-49	144 (69)	170 (81)	18	<0.001
	≥50	272 (86)	293 (92)	8	0.001
Race/ethnicity	Black, non-Hispanic	180 (63)	222 (78)	23	< 0.001
	White, non-Hispanic	118 (81)	138 (95)	17	< 0.001
	White, ethnicity unknown	60 (97)	57 (92)	-5.0	0.178
	Hispanic	72 (82)	83 (94)	15	<0.001
	Other/unknown	56 (82)	58 (85)	4	0.414

^{*}Relative percentage change

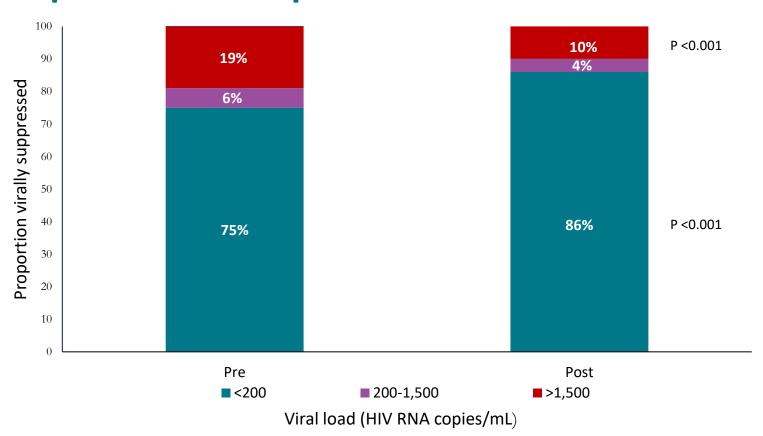
Proportion of persons virally suppressed, pre- and post-model implementation by characteristic

	Characteristic	Baseline	Follow-up		
		N (%)	N (%)	% Change*	p-value
Sex†	Male	368 (78)	419 (89)	14	<0.001
	Female	111 (68)	127 (77)	14	0.006
Medical Insurance	Medicaid	156 (71)	178 (81)	14	0.002
	Medicare	111 (83)	120 (90)	8	0.029
	Multiple	47 (98)	46 (96)	-2	0.317
	Ryan White/ADAP‡	60 (65)	74 (80)	23	<0.001
	Private Insurance	68 (72)	89 (94)	31	<0.001
	Uninsured/unknown	44 (72)	51 (84)	16	0.020

^{*}Relative percentage change †Transgender persons were excluded from the analysis due to small sample size ‡ADAP = AIDS Drug Assistance Program

Byrd, KK, et al. Adherence and viral suppression among participants of the Patient-centered HIV Care Model project—a collaboration between community-based pharmacists and HIV clinical providers. Clin Infect Dis. 2020 Feb 14;70(5):789-797. DOI: 10.1093/cid/ciz276

Proportion of persons virally suppressed, preand post-model implementation



Proportion of persons with HIV and mental health conditions* retained in care and virally suppressed pre- and post-model implementation by characteristic

	Retained in care			Virally suppressed				
	Baseline	Follow-up			Baseline	Follow-up		
	N (%)	N (%)	% Change†	p-value	N (%)	N (%)	% Change†	p-value
Total	252 (60)	265 (68)	13	0.009	306 (79)	329 (90)	13	<0.001
Non-psychotic Disorder [‡]	220 (60)	227 (67)	11	0.043	274 (80)	294 (91)	13	<0.001
Psychotic Disorder §	32 (59)	38 (78)	31	0.056	32 (70)	35 (83)	20	0.070
Substance use	31 (50)	40 (68)	36	0.036	40 (66)	51 (86)	32	0.001

^{*}Mental health conditions = a mental health diagnosis or ≥1 antidepressant, antianxiety or antipsychotic medication prescription, pre-implementation period. †Relative percentage change. †Includes persons with a non-psychotic disorder diagnosis or ≥1 antidepressant/antianxiety prescription, pre-implementation period. § Includes persons with a psychotic disorder diagnosis or ≥1 prescription for an antipsychotic medication, pre-implementation period. Includes persons with a mental health condition and substance (alcohol or drug) use, abuse or dependence in the pre-implementation period. Byrd et al. 2020. doi: 10.1007/s10461-020-02913-2

Cost and cost-effectiveness

Cost and cost effectiveness

- Average cost per visit: \$48
- Incremental cost per patient virally suppressed: \$5,039
- Intervention is cost-savings
 - Could remain cost saving if at least 8 additional patients virally suppressed
 - Could be cost effective if as few as 4 additional patients were suppressed

Analysis limitations

- Project pharmacists were not reimbursed for model services, which may be required to scale the model
- The measurement period was short (12 months)
- Persons with no viral loads in either the pre- or post-implementation periods were excluded from the viral suppression analysis
- PCHCM was a demonstration project, not a research study; the pretestposttest evaluation design is not as rigorous as a study with control groups
- The cost-effectiveness estimates are dependent on the modeling and parameter inputs used in the analysis



Augmenting the HIV workforce

- Increased collaboration allows for more pharmacist involvement in patient care
 - Sharing information allows a "second set of eyes" to review and identify gaps in therapy and allows pharmacists to work with clinicians to develop therapyrelated action plans
 - Reduces the burden of care
 - Increases the diversity of healthcare professionals in HIV care
 - Can lead to better service to patient and better outcomes

Implementation

- Collaborations must be developed
- Clinicians may benefit from training on working with pharmacists
- Pharmacists with specialty training in HIV are most suitable
- Reimbursement for pharmacist services needs to be addressed

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Collaborations, between community pharmacists and HIV clinicians, can lead to improved patient outcomes
- Similar collaborations can be implemented to augment the HIV workforce but collaborations need to be fostered

Acknowledgments

We thank all the participants, project pharmacies and clinics and all members of the Patient-centered HIV Care Model Team: Michael Aguirre, Osayi Akinbosoye, David M. Bamberger, Ben Bluml, Katura Bullock, Diane C. Burrell, Tim Bush, Clifton Bush, Kathy K. Byrd, Chad Cadwell, Nasima M. Camp, Roberto Cardarelli, Terri Clark, Patrick G. Clay, Andrew Crim, Angela Cure, Kristin Darin, Traci Dean, Ambrose Delpino, Michael DeMayo, Shara Elrod, Ashley L. Eschmann, David Farmer, Rose Farnan, Heather Free, Andrew Gudzelak Jr., Andrew Halbur, Felicia Hardnett, Ronald Hazen, Heidi Hilker, John Hou, Brian Hujdich, Lisa Johnson, Heather Kirkham, James Lecounte, Sayuri Lio, Guanzhong Lo, Mazzoni Center HIV Care Team of Clinicians, Sondra Middleton, Brittany Mills, Christopher M. Nguyen, Linda Ortiz, Glen Pietrandoni, Kimberly K. Scarsi, Jon Schommer, Michael D. Shankle, Ram Shrestha, Daron Smith, Sumihiro Suzuki, Michael S. Taitel, Gebeyehu N. Teferi, Vikas Tomer, Louis Torres, Paul J. Weidle, Carmelita Whitfield, and Jason E. Willman.

Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thank you!







Addressing HIV Workforce Challenges in Rural Communities 2020 National Ryan White Conference

August 14, 2020

Rachel Moscato, MPH
Public Health Analyst
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Overvie

- Overview of The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)
- Rural Workforce Landscape
- Rural Workforce Resources and Innovative Approaches
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities





The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

Mission:

FORHP collaborates with rural communities and partners to support programs and shape policy that will improve health in rural America.





FORHP Organizational Structure



State and Hospital Programs

State Offices of Rural Health, Flex and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Programs, Rural QI TA, Small Rural Hospital Transitions



Community Based Programs

Black Lung, Delta,
Opioids, Care
Coordination, Network
Development and
Planning, Quality
Improvement, Outreach



Telehealth Programs

Telehealth Resource Centers, Network Grants, Licensure Portability, Rural Child Poverty, Rural Veterans Health Access



Policy and Research

Rural Health Research Centers, Rural Health Value, Rural Policy Analysis, RHC Policy and Clinical Assessment



Rural Strategic Initiatives

Rural Communities Opioids Response, Rural COVID-19 Tribal Program

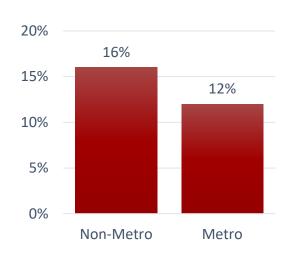




The Rural Population

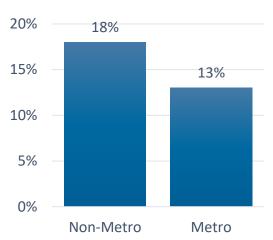
Older

Population Age 65 or Older



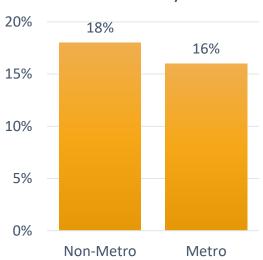
Sicker

Limitations of Activity
Caused by Chronic
Health Conditions



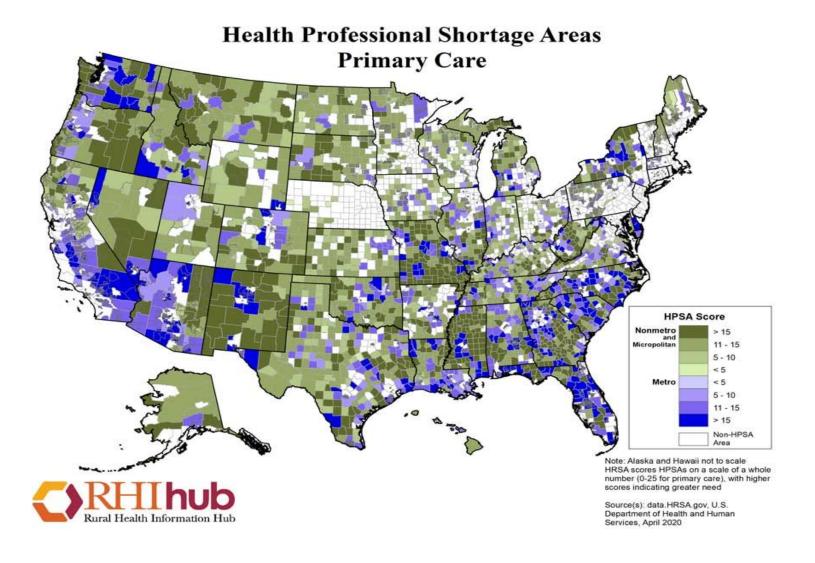
Poorer

Population Below Federal Poverty Line



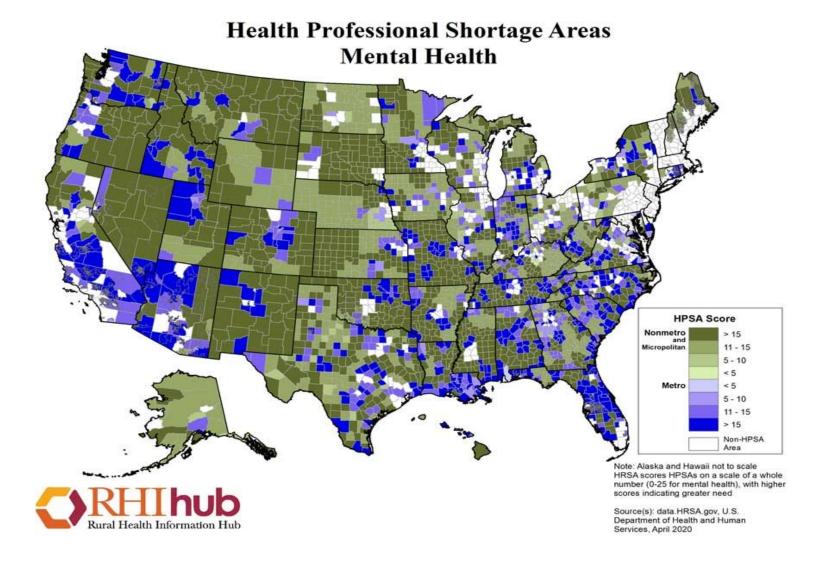














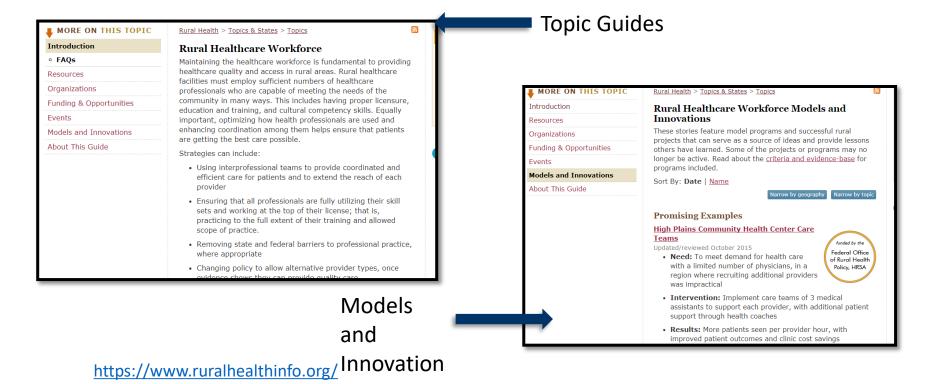


Rural Healthcare Workforce Resources and Innovative Approaches





Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub)







Rural Healthcare Workforce Innovations

ASPIN's Certified Recovery Specialist Program

- Provides four levels of training for CHWs through e-learning
- In 2019, ASPIN trained 61 CHWs, cross-trained 37 behavioral health case managers as CHWs, and 26 individuals in the Indiana Navigator Pre-certification Education.



https://www.ruralhealthinto.org/project-examples/746





Rural Healthcare Workforce Innovations (2)

FORWARD NM Pathways to Health Careers

- A comprehensive workforce pipeline program, including programming for middle and high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, primary care program students, and medical and dental residents.
- The program reaches over 2,000 school-aged students throughout the service areas and hosts 70+ rural rotation experiences annually.



https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/project-examples/724





Rural Recruitment and Retention

- The National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)
 - State-Level Resource for job seekers and employers
- Tools for Enhancing Retention
 - New <u>Training Module Series</u> <u>https://www.3rnet.org/</u>

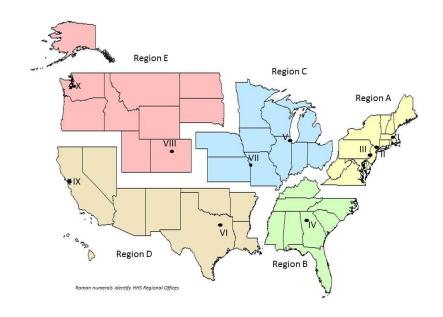






State Offices of Rural Health

- Share information, resources and innovative projects with other rural health stakeholders
- Coordinate with other state partners on rural health issues
- Link rural health stakeholders to Federal and state resources
- Rural recruitment and retention



Connect with your SORH: https://nosorh.org/nosorh-members/

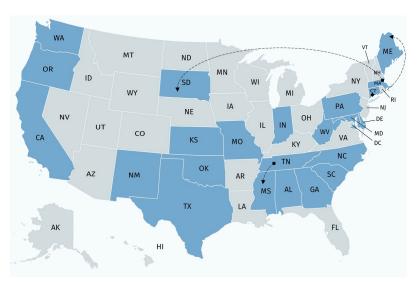




Rural Residency Planning & Development Program

Expanding Rural Residency Training

RRPD Recipients and Rural Training Sites



- In FY19 HRSA awarded \$20M to 27 recipients across 21 states
- Multi-year grant to expand the number of rural residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, and psychiatry
- Support planning and development costs accrued while achieving ACGME accreditation

RRPD Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

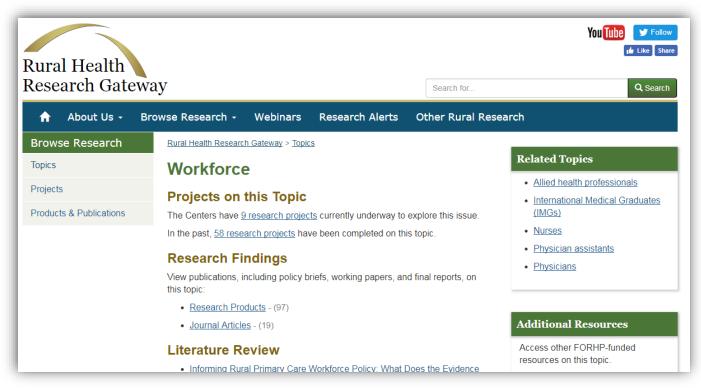


- Consortium led by the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill consist of experts in all aspects of rural residency development
- The RRPD-TAC provides technical assistance to help grow graduate medical education programs in rural America
- All RRPD program awardees are required to collaborate with the RRPD-TAC to develop new, sustainable and accredited residency programs





Rural Health Workforce Research



https://www.ruralhealthresearch.org





Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- Rural Health Network Development Planning (Network Planning)
 - Application available in Fall 2020
 - Purpose is to assist in the development of an integrated health care network, specifically with network participants who do not have a history of formal collaborative efforts. Network Planning goals are: (i) to achieve efficiencies; (ii) to expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services; and (iii) to strengthen the rural health care system as a whole.
- Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program (Outreach)
 - Application available Winter 2020
 - Provides support to promote rural health care services outreach projects utilizing evidencebased or promising practice models in order to address community-specific health concerns.
- Additional FORHP Funding Opportunities available on our website.





FORHP Weekly Announcements

- Rural-focused Funding Opportunities
- Policy and Regulatory Developments
 Affecting Rural Providers and
 Communities
- Rural Research findings
- Policy updates from a Rural Perspective

To sign up: Email Michelle Daniels at mdaniels@hrsa.gov



Announcements from the



Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

August 1, 2019

What's New

New Rural Quality Grants Awarded. The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) is pleased to announce over \$6.3M has been awarded to 32 rural community healthcare organizations for the new competitive funding cycle of the Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement (Rural Quality) Program. The Rural Quality Program is a three-year grant program designed to provide support to rural primary care providers for the implementation of activities that address improvements to the quality and delivery of rural health care services in the primary care setting using evidence-based models. Quality improvement activities that address the integration of behavioral health into the primary care setting, value-based care, and patient centered medical homes are also encouraged by the program. Additional program objectives include: improved health outcomes for patients; enhanced chronic disease management; and better engagement with patients and their caregivers.

Improving the Health of Rural Communities Through Collaboration – Thursday, August 15 at 1:00 pm ET. This webinar introduces a new resource, A Guide for Rural Healthcare Collaboration and Coordination. Hear how rural hospitals, community health centers, local public health





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